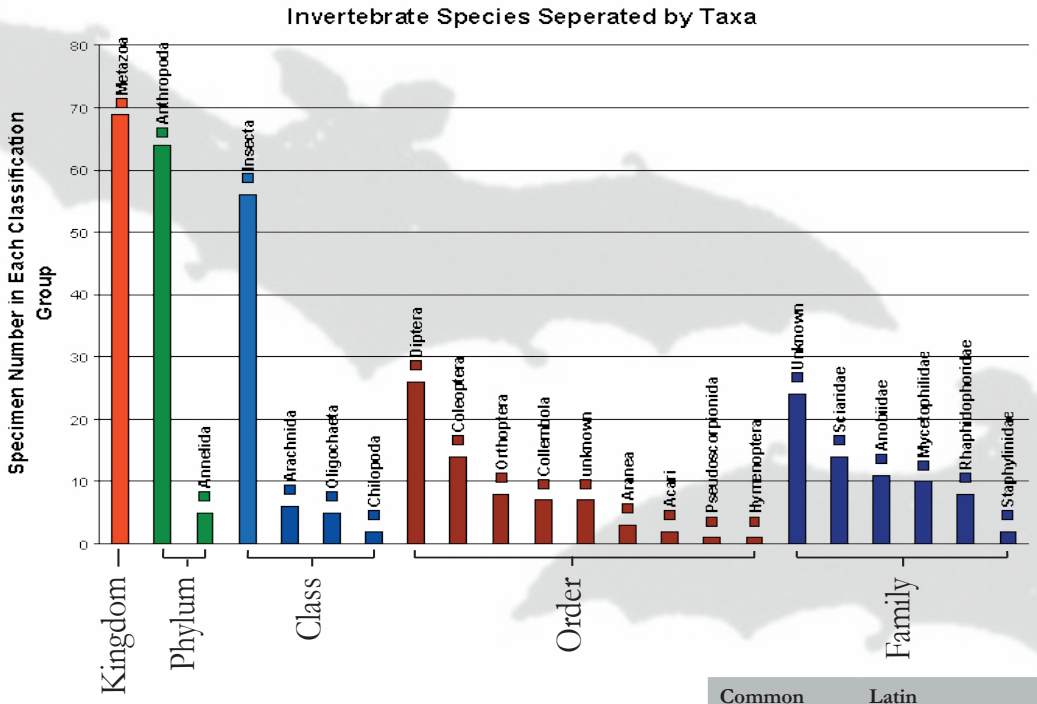
STOP[buggin']ME

[projects] **2003**



[who's] THAT BUG?

The invertebrate study is still underway and to date 69 specimens have been catalogued (many more have been collected). They have been classified and seperated into 2 phylums, 4 classes, 8 orders, and 5 families illustrated in the graph above. The common names listed with their associated latin names and specimen numbers are in the table to the right.

Common	Latin	
Class		**#**
Earthworms	Oligochaeta	5
Centipedes	Chilopoda	2
Insects	Insecta	56
Spiders, Ticks, Scorpions	Arachnida	6
Order		**#**
Springtails	Collembola	7
Flies, Gnats, Mosquitoes	Diptera	26
Ticks, Mites	Acari	2
False Scorpions	Pseudoscorpionida	1
Bees, Wasps, Ants	Hymenoptera	1
Beetles	Coleoptera	14
Crickets	Orthoptera	8
Orb-weaving Spiders	Aranea	3
	Unknown	7
Family		**#**
Fungus Gnats	Sciaridae	14
Deathwatch Beetles	Anobiidae	11
Fungus Gnats	Mycetophilidae	10
Cave Crickets	Rhaphidophoridae	8
Rove Beetles	Staphylinidae	2
	Unknown	24

WHAT'S THAT [smell]!?

Starting September 8th, we'll be placing new pitfall traps in the cave. These will be bated with limburger cheese, a notoriously smelly substance. In order to minimize the impact to the aesthetic qualities of the cave, we are concentrating the traps in a small section of the cave, and then rotating them to a new section every three days. If they noticeably distract cave visitors, let us know, and we will remove or relocate the traps. Additionally there is a new and quite visible trap located at the cave exit called a Malaise fly trap (above). It is intended to trap flying insects that may be entering the cave so we can differentiate the species living inside the cave from those who merely travel into and through the caverns.

Putting the Hand Back on the Handrail

We have two recent additions to our handrail family at the St. Bernard Stairs and Exit Staircase. For those who missed the extravaganza of putting in the Exit handrail and want an idea of how much effort it takes, just imagine it was easier to carry the handrail from the exit to Hansen entrance and back through the caves to the exit just to put it into place!

Going (Went) to California

At the end of July Jon, Cami, Brandon, and Jason journeyed to Porterville, CA to attend the NSS convention. The convention consisted of a series of lectures, presentations, discussions, forums, and art saloons. There were several highlights including, the National Park cave management seminar, Oregon Cave Resource Management Plan public comment session, and a nice tour of Crystal Cave in Sequoia NP. Additionally, Jon gave a well received presentation on the uses of palm pilots and ArcPad in caves.

THE [mad] PLANTER

This fall, as soon as the temperature drops and it begins to rain, RM will begin to revegetate both the meadow and the cave trail. The Meadow will be seeded with Sandburg Bluegrass, Indian Ricegrass, Needle and Thread Grass, Great Basin Wildrye and Bluebunch Wheatgrass. This will be done by: 1) breaking up the soil using shovels and picks 2) evenly spreading 25 pounds of grass seed on the disturbed soil 3) and compressing the soil by stepping on it (this buries the Seed). Sections of the cave trail that have considerably high erosion rates will be seeded and planted with Indian Ricegrass, Sandburg Bluegrass, Sagebrush, Rabbitbrush, Serviceberry, Gambel Oak, Evening Primrose, Curleaf Mountain Mahogany, and Broom Snakeweed. If you are interested in helping ask for Becky at Resource Management.

JUST [blow'n] IN THE WIND

There is a new wind speed gauge located in the open passage next to the exit staircase. Currently we are attempting to learn the range of wind speed the gauge records. Once this is determined we can then monitor airflow patterns throughout the cave system. The anemometer will be relocated periodically to determine the average and maximum airflow velocities at different points in the Cave.

BRANDON's [bane]

Witness the power of this fully operational cave map! Brandon has gone through considerable and often painful efforts to redraw the Timpanogos Cave map from original sketches and surveys. The new map is a multi-layered completely digital image. One can now to toggle and zoom to view the whole map or individual places with varying amounts of detail. The scale is 1" = 4 meters meaning at full scale the map is over 10' long! This new map will primarily be used to enhance our GIS in the park; however, it has potential uses for interpretation, maintenance, administration, and possibly as a nice display in our new visitor center.

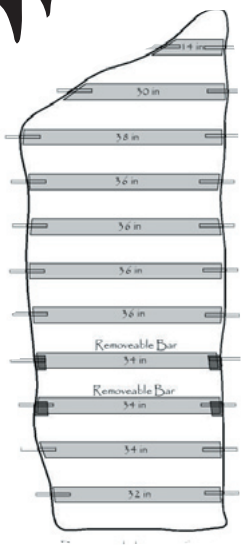


Diagram of New Gate

THE [final] BAT GATE

Starting September 8th we will resume our bat gate project and begin the process of installing a new gate at the Middle Cave entrance. We'll be using ropes and pulley's to haul the welder, angle Iron, and other gear to that entrance. Hopefully the majority of work will be done in the absence of tours; however safety lines and netting will be used to stop debris (or R.M. Staff) from falling into the Big Room or onto the trail. Depending on the visitation levels you may see R.M. ascending and descending the natural entrance, a nice opportunity to "WOW!" your tour.